

NH Prescribed Fire Council Meeting Minutes

June, 2nd, 2016 0900-1200

New Hampton Fire Station, New Hampton, NH

Attendees: Ralph Perron, Tom Natale, Adele Fenwick, Sabrina Stanwood, John Neely, Andy Fast, Jim Oehler, Wendy Weisiger, Steve Najjar, Zack Boyajian, Ben Kaufhold.

Minutes: Minutes from the 02/24/2016 meeting were accepted.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Baseline Rx acres project- Ben Kaufhold of UNH will be working on project to determine acres burned in NH last 2 years. As comprehensive as possible. Bulk of work will be done in the fall with some data gathering this summer. Brief survey will be sent out to council members. NH Rx Council's project; funded through internship grant but council will share credit with UNH. Looking for shapefiles of burns, useful for many different things.

2. Current Council Structure and main duties of office:

Chair 2016 J. Neely USFS. Duties of Chair are: set agendas, facilitate meetings and set future meetings, add or change by-laws and other administrative details as needed. Position is 1 year beginning September 2016.

Vice-Chair 2016 S. Najjar NBAFS. Duties are: Note taker, and next in line for Chair position. 1 year.

Webmaster- A. Fast. Duties are: Post meeting notes and other updates. Maintain website. Once a year update website.

Administrator- J. Oehler. Duties involve maintaining nhrxfire bounce list...any others??

Networking- Z. Boyajian provides info about Council to Fire Learning Network. In the future will send same info to SAF- John Nute NESAF.org

3. Attempt to develop a quarterly operations calendar:

Winter meeting Nov/Dec-

Identify and share info on planned rx units.

Prepare training/certification needs for Jen Little NH.

Needs assessment for upcoming year- Publishable so can be cited for grants etc.

Look at rx 410 and rx 340 classes for 2016-2017.

Spring meeting Feb/March

Implement outreaches for upcoming burns

Get final acres/units in to group

Summer meeting May/June

ID new officers

AAR Spring season

Plan for summer burn units

Fall meeting Aug/Sept

Outreach plans- send to NH Association of Conservation Councils?

SIDE CONVERSATION REGARDING PRIVATE LANDOWNER RX BURNS:

Group discussed ways to make the process easier including:

Can conservation commissions work with town wardens to burn town land?

Can foresters get trained to be burn boss? Online training with credit?

Concern that private landowners may not be ready to implement burns themselves.

Try to get NRCS involved in funding rx fire again

Use state early successional habitat funding?

Use town's conservation funds?

Look for a private or town representative for the rx council?

Identify components of rx burns

Determine what the needs are (enough RxB2's etc.)

What do we have vs. what do we need

Invite Brad Simpkins/USFS/other state and federal partners and Don Kearsted NRCS to discuss funding opportunities.

Taskbook update

The Chief of Forest Protection position may be filled soon. This person should be invited to Council mtgs. may help to resolve some issues with taskbooks.

Who manages taskbooks? State employees are managed by Jen Little in IQS. Recently lost data so in process of rebuilding. Could this be a job the state of NH NECC dispatcher handles?

NECC handles federal employees in IQCS.

Next meeting invite Molly Campbell and Jen Little to discuss IQS/IQCS management.

Misc. Discussions

State wants to update Pine River rx burn plans and implement in the near future.

Rx Council should discuss what classes are needed next.

Make sure to use the nhrxfire@freelists.org when sending out requests for help. The old list was used a few times this spring so not everyone was in the loop.

Start doing the agency presentations again (WMNF can do one at next mtg.)

2016 Rx fire wrap up

NBAFS- Good year all units done

WMNF- 27 acres of grassland/shrub. Too dry to burn understory.

NH F&G- 1 day burning at airport. 2 units mowed shrub and grass. Both units were shut down before completion as out of prescription, too dry. Jim would like to burn 25 acres of blueberry habitat at Blue Job SP. Will maintain for diversity. Use fire every 10 years for blueberry and bronto the birch regen. **Will set up a site visit to Blue Job and Pine River in the future.**

Council should analyze parameters we use and determine where they can be tweaked to improve opportunities.

SPNHF- Got a grant to rx burn at Harmon preserve in Sept. TNC will implement.

Next meeting date- September 15 0900-1200 "fire date" Sept 22nd. Location Alton Museum, Alton, NH. Site visit to Blue Job is planned.